Vol. 6 No. 9

National Congress Bulletin

NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS
1201 Sixteenth Street, N. W., Washington, D. C.

MAY, 1939

YOUR NATIONAL CONVENTION

EVERYTHING is ready for our National Convention in Cincinnati! Perhaps this BULLETIN will reach you while we are still in session. If so, please know that no matter where you are in this wide land you are a most important part of the convention.

When we are discussing our theme, "Freedom for Growth," we shall remember and be glad that it is you—twenty-seven thousand and more—who will make the convention theme a reality in your local association. While we are seeking a solution to the problems facing parents and teachers today we shall find assurance in the knowledge that it is your work and your interpretation which will give vitality and worth to all we do.

As a background for every session, we shall see you, ready to share in today's task of making and keeping people free—little children free for play and growth and laughter, young people free for life and work and happiness, and our own great membership free for service and citizenship in a world which needs us all.

Out across the miles that may separate us, beyond the days that may keep us apart, we fling wide the doors and welcome you to the fellowship and inspiration of your National Convention.

Frances S. Pettengill

President,
National Congress of Parents and Teachers.

NINETEEN FORTY . . .

White House Conference

GREAT interest is being shown in the 1940 White House Conference, the fourth in a series of White House conferences organized to consider the extent to which the needs of children are being met by our civilization. It was just 30 years ago that the first White House Conference on the Care of Dependent Children assembled on the call of President Theodore Roosevelt. In 1919, a conference on Child Welfare Standards was held. In 1930, a White House Conference on Child Health and Protection formulated the famous Children's Charter, which is used extensively by parent-teacher associations.

• President Roosevelt stated that he is calling this conference because of his "conviction that a society founded upon democratic principles finds both its aim and its security in the happiness and well-being of its people, and especially its children, and in recognition of the primary claim of children for those essentials of life upon which their growth and development depend."

• Secretary of Labor Perkins, Chairman of the Conference, said, "We need a White House Conference to express our affectionate concern in the welfare of children. . . . Nowhere, I feel sure, are the interests of children more deeply cherished than in America."

• President Roosevelt is honorary chairman of the Conference; Mrs. Roosevelt is vice-chairman; Frances Perkins, Secretary of Labor, is chairman; and Katharine F. Lenroot, Chief of the Children's Bureau, is executive secretary.

• The first session of the Conference was held in Washington, April 26, for the purpose of determining the most important subjects to be considered and how best to organize future Conference activities. A final meeting will be held early in 1940 to consider the material brought together by the committees and their conclusions concerning the ways in which the aims of a democratic society for children may be brought to fuller realization. Mrs. J. K. Pettengill, President of the National Congress, is a member of the Planning Committee and will attend the sessions.

Tune In and Find Out

WINGS FOR THE MARTINS

NBC Blue Network

Wednesday, 8:30-9:00 P.M., E.S.T. Presented by the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, the U. S. Office of Education, and the National Broadcasting Company.

May 3

MOTHER STEPS OUT

If Mother goes on a vacation, takes a day off to rest, who takes care of the house? What happens when Patricia has a chance to practise home keeping? Does she manage the household the way she learns in school?

May 10

AFTER HIGHSCHOOL . . . WHAT?

What can a highschool graduate do? If he doesn't go to college, should he continue his education? Can he? What should young people study after they graduate? Where can they go for advice?

Wings for the Martins

THE 26-week series of radio broadcasts, "Wings for the Martins," sponsored by the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, the U. S. Office of Education, and the National Broadcasting Company ends on May 10. This series of programs has done much to stimulate the interest of the public in problems of education, particularly as they relate to the home.

Excellent study guides have been prepared for use in connection with the broadcasts. This material, which may be obtained free upon request from the U. S. Office of Education, Washington, D. C., is also useful for study groups. Some of the titles are as follows: Children Are Different; Children Are Persons; The Right School Club for Every Child; Choosing Books for Children; Health Comes Through Wholesome Living; The Girl and Her Clothes; Ways of Learning; What the Report Card Means; What About College; Places to Learn Outside of School; Homes That Educate; Why School Boards.

Signposts and Guides

NATIONAL SERVICES TO STATE BRANCHES AND LOCAL UNITS

THE services of the National organization to the state branches and the local associations are both tangible and intangible. The tangible contributions relate to establishing—through personal contacts and the printed word—those relationships which knit together the entire membership.

NATIONAL REPRESENTATION

NATIONAL representation at conventions and conferences develops and strengthens the consciousness on the part of the members of their place in a nationwide movement. It makes possible the personal acquaintance of parent-teacher members with members of the National Board. It gives to national officers first-hand information about parent-teacher work as it is actually being carried on in the states. This information enables the National organization to render better service to its state and local groups.

NATIONAL FIELD SERVICE

NATIONAL field service rendered by members of the staff is a unifying factor in translating the objects of the National Congress into practical activities in local communities. The type of national field service is based upon the current needs and development of the movement.

NATIONAL CONGRESS PUBLICATIONS

THE use of print plays a large part in the service of the National Congress to states and locals. The continued success and expansion of the parent-teacher movement depend more and more upon its ability to keep its members familiar with its policies, its procedures, and its ideals.

Through the publications the National Congress puts a major emphasis upon an informed and participating membership. Its publications reach the local membership through each state branch. All working material is free to Congress units.

OTHER SERVICES

THE National Congress by virtue of its strength and importance makes possible to state and local groups cooperations which could not otherwise be undertaken. It stimulates appropriate action to improve and enrich the life of the home, the school, and the community, inspires local units to discover and meet their needs and accept their responsibilities through cooperation with other community agencies. Through the contribution and inspiration of the National Congress, the local parent-teacher association becomes an instrument of progress and a training school in democratic citizenship.

The

- **PURPOSE OF**
- **Congress Publications**

1. To develop, strengthen, and supplement the volunteer service which is the keystone of the parent-teacher movement.
2. To bring to every P.T.A. information concerning Congress plans, policies, procedures, projects, and programs.
3. To stimulate membership interest and participation in the entire field of parent-teacher work.

Twelve colorful posters describing the purpose and use of Congress publications and the *National Parent-Teacher* magazine were displayed at the National Convention. Above is the text used on one of these posters.

WHY A CONGRESS P.T.A.

THE promotion of the education and welfare of children and youth is a common bond which unites all peoples, regardless of race, or creed, or language. Over two and one-quarter millions of people in the United States, recognizing the inspiration and the strength of an organized cooperative endeavor, are members of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers and of its 49 state branches, through local parent-teacher associations.

The advantages of belonging to this nationwide group may be summarized as follows:

A Congress parent-teacher association adds to its own strength that of great numbers of other groups united in a common purpose, giving a strength that is not attained by groups working singly.

A Congress parent-teacher association profits by the knowledge and experience of other parent-teacher leaders in the development of its program for the promotion of the welfare and education of children and youth.

A Congress parent-teacher association is provided with basic procedures and methods which have proved sound and effective over a period of years in many associations.

A Congress parent-teacher association shares in the power of united effort in forwarding new projects and undertakings as needs arise.

A Congress parent-teacher association offers an opportunity for the united efforts of parents and teachers in any community to be added to the efforts of those in other communities working for the common good.

A Congress parent-teacher association receives the benefit of the cooperation of the state and national organizations with state and national agencies having similar objectives.

Parent-Teacher News

HEALTH ACTIVITIES OF LOCAL PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATIONS

UNDER the slogan, "The Health of the Child Is the Power of the Nation," the United States will observe Child Health Day on May 1. This slogan was first used in 1919. It is being repeated this year, since 1939 is a year of national stocktaking in the field of health and child welfare. Parent-teacher associations and other groups throughout the nation will join in observance of Child Health Day.

Summer Round-Up of the Children

THE Summer Round-Up of the Children is the most widely known child health activity carried on by local parent-teacher associations. The Summer Round-Up is conducted for the purpose of arousing the interest of parents in improving the health of children and to bring about continuous medical and dental supervision of children of all ages. It is carried on each year in cooperation with the community medical, dental, and nursing professions and health agencies. While the immediate concern of the Round-Up is discovering and remedying health defects of children entering school for the first time, it contributes toward improvement of health standards for children of all ages; it helps to develop a deeper sense of responsibility of the home for the health of children; and it influences attitudes and practices in school and community health programs.

Facts about the 1938 Summer Round-Up Campaign

103,402 children examined
100,091 defects discovered
83,145 parents present at these examinations
21,132 children examined in office of family physician
34,991 defects corrected
36,945 children protected against smallpox
26,073 children protected against diptheria
4,299 Congress units carried through the Round-Up

Community Health Program

A COMMUNITY health program, directed toward improving conditions in the community with regard to sanitation, safe milk and water supply, food inspection, and control of contagious diseases, is being sponsored by one unit in cooperation with other agencies. Citizen groups are assisting the school in its efforts to provide clean and safe school buildings and grounds; medical and dental examinations; nursing service; health instruction in all grades; and programs of play and physical activity.

Highschool Health Project

A HEALTH project, for the purpose of tuberculosis testing of junior and senior highschool students, was sponsored by one unit. The project was directed by the state physician in charge of this work and his staff of nurses, and assistance was given by a hospital. The association's part was to secure parents' permission that the test be given their children. X-rays were provided for children who showed a positive reaction.

Of the 174 students X-rayed, 38 cases of early, non-clinical tuberculosis were discovered in time for treatment. Five cases of active lung tuberculosis, one of which was far advanced, were discovered and referred to physicians for treatment; and consultations were held with parents regarding the infected children.

Workers consider it significant that students and parents welcomed the tests, which were purely voluntary. The sponsors feel that the cures made possible, the lives saved, and the sources of infection discovered and removed, more than justified the effort of conducting the project.

Social Hygiene Program

A SOCIAL hygiene program for highschool students was sponsored by a city council in cooperation with the board of education. The objective of the program was to have each boy and girl understand biological and psychological aspects of sex. Among topics covered in lectures and discussion groups were the following:

1. *What is modern youth's idea of adolescent freedom?*
   What are the sources of this idea?
2. *Does this idea conflict with that of their parents and of the community?*
3. *How can these differing viewpoints be reconciled?*
4. *Because finding a mate is of importance to them, should society relax youth restrictions in this area?*
5. *Should a code be set up for youth freedom? If so, how and by whom?*
6. *What can home and school do to guide youth freedom?*

Local doctors presented these topics and their lectures were followed by discussion periods in which students asked questions and expressed their point of view.

Mental Hygiene Program

ONE association is stimulating interest in such positive and constructive aspects of mental hygiene, as the following: contribution of mental hygiene to a better understanding of the problems of childhood and youth; correlation of mental and physical health; mental hygiene as an aid in the improvement of personality; mental hygiene as a solvent for group conflicts.

Through panel discussions, institutes on family and human relations, radio talks, and newspaper articles, the association is promoting interest in the whole subject of mental hygiene. It is also making available information concerning community resources for mental hygiene service, including public institutions that offer early diagnosis and preventive and remedial treatments.

For Handicapped Children

PROMOTING the welfare of handicapped children is an important project of local units in one city. The associations are concerned with the special education and home training of children who are gifted, who have behavior problems, or who are exceptional in any way: crippled, blind, or partially blind, deaf, or hard of hearing, mentally retarded, or defective in speech.

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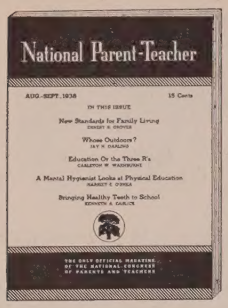
National Parent-Teacher
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IN THIS ISSUE
New Standards for Family Living
Whose Outdoors?
Education Or the Three R's
A Mental Hygienist Looks at Physical Education
Bringing Healthy Teeth to School
THE ONLY OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS

Our National Magazine

ANNOUNCING . . .

Parent-Teacher Study Course For 1939-1940

AMERICAN YOUTH

●

Articles in Course:

1. **The Farmer Has a Son**
2. **Sing a Song of Sixpence**
3. **Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary**
4. **For Want of a Nail**
5. **Saturday, Sunday**
6. **Where Are You Going, My Pretty Maid?**
7. **Jack and Jill**
8. **This Is the House That Jack Built**

●

THE course is based on one of the most vital problems of the day. No democracy can progress unless it meets the needs of its youth.

●

THE first article, "The Farmer Has a Son," will appear in the

June-July Issue

of the NATIONAL PARENT-TEACHER. Publication of the articles two months in advance of meeting dates will provide greater opportunity for developing the topics.

SEE MAY ISSUE FOR FURTHER DETAILS

PREVIEW OF MAY ISSUE

IN the United States parents and teachers have become so accustomed to freedom of thought, discussion, and action that they may tend to overlook the fact that they are living in an age in which democracy and its civic responsibilities are being challenged. To this challenge, however, as to others, parents and teachers bring their intelligence and cooperative experience not only to preserve their own democratic freedom, but to extend it by educating children and youth for their civic privileges and responsibilities.

THE challenge America faces today in a world of warring philosophies is clear-cut! What do we mean when we talk of democracy? Is it worth defending and perpetuating? Clarence A. Dykstra discusses these questions and outlines a "conscious" education program which he believes can make the content of democracy fly the flag of eternal vigilance, and thus make the dream of the centuries come true. We venture to prophesy that **"Education for Civic Responsibility"** will strike a responsive chord in the heart and mind of every parent and teacher.

"Youth imitates. Youth emulates. Youth is active. Youth is restive. Youth is the time of lawlessness. Criminal tendencies assert themselves early in life. The neglected youth, the unsolved problem child, is the genesis of crime." These are the convictions of none other than James A. Johnston, warden of Alcatraz, who has spent many years of his life in managing prisons. His question, "What are you going to do about it?" directed to parents and teachers, is truly **"The Challenge of Crime."**

Stop! Calling all automotive window shoppers, day dreamers, ill-mannered drivers, and double parkers! Miller McClintock presents a discussion of the common courtesies and decencies necessary if we are to enjoy an age of traffic safety. **"Motor Manners"** will be applauded by parents and teachers.

Long years of experimentation and effort in parent-teacher study groups have disclosed some simple, useful facts. What these facts are, their effects upon the purposes of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, and their disclosure of new adult tasks created by new conditions and new endeavors, are discussed by Gertrude Laws in **"Old Purposes and New Practices."** Every parent and teacher will find in this article enlightened methods and reliable knowledge essential to effective parent-teacher participation.

Other articles and features: **"Straight Thinking versus Crooked"** by Holland D. Roberts, **"Waitin' on Walter"** by Inez Elliott Andersen, and **"Respect for the Law"** by Paul J. Thomas. The May issue also includes an editorial by Joy Elmer Morgan, editor of the *Journal of the National Education Association;* the ninth article on the Guiding Principles, contributed by Mrs. Chris Hirning; an interpretation of "Learning to Cooperate," a problem presented in the radio broadcast *Wings for the Martins;* Books in Review; and the President's Message, looking forward to the coming White House Conference on Children in a Democracy.

Special Feature

■ Twenty years ago people interested in the health and welfare of children selected May Day as an appropriate time in which to bring to the attention of each community the importance of the child's health, development, and well-being throughout life. Eleven years ago, the President of the United States in accordance with the Congressional Resolution officially proclaimed May Day as Child Health Day. This year the *National Parent-Teacher* observes this memorable event by presenting what the members of the Summer Round-Up Advisory Committee in health problems believe to be the greatest opportunities for parents and teachers in the field of child health.

HAVE YOU SUBSCRIBED *Yet* TO THE NATIONAL PARENT-TEACHER?